

CASE STUDY: GREAT LAKES FISHERY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE



The Great Lakes Fishery Leadership Institute (GLFLI) was designed to train a new generation of citizen leaders in the Great Lakes fisheries community, and Ohio now boasts 21 graduates of this program. The Great Lakes Sea Grant Network successfully competed for two Fisheries Extension Enhancement grants in 2003: (1) to develop the GLFLI curriculum notebook and (2) to conduct the first GLFLI classes. Ohio Sea Grant was responsible for developing the GLFLI Aquatic Science curriculum module and to implement the 2002 Great Lakes Charter Captains Survey.



Eleven individuals completed both the Ohio GLFLI class at the F.T. Stone Laboratory, Put-in-Bay, OH and the Lake Erie GLFLI class at the Stull Nature Center, Presque Isle, PA. Another ten Ohio citizens participated in either the Ohio or Lake Erie GLFLI workshop.

These 21 participants studied fisheries management, Lake Erie issues, fish production, and field sampling techniques at the Ohio Great Lakes Fishery Leadership Institute at Stone Laboratory, September 12-14, 2003.

The workshop was team-taught over a three day weekend by Ohio Sea Grant faculty members Fred Snyder, Dr. Jeff Reutter, Dave Kelch, John Hageman, and Frank Lichtkoppler and by ODNR Lake Erie Fishery Management Supervisor Roger Knight. Almost 94% (16 of 17) of post-program survey respondents strongly agreed that they will share the information learned at the workshop with others. Eighty-seven percent (14 of 16) agreed or strongly agreed that they will conduct a service project as a result of the workshop.



The Lake Erie session was organized by Eric Obert, PA Sea Grant, Helen Domske, NY Sea Grant and Frank Lichtkoppler, OH Sea Grant at Presque Isle PA, October 3 and 4, 2003. Thirty-eight participants from MI, OH, PA and NY gained knowledge of Lake Erie fishery issues, the Great Lakes Fish Commission, and Lake Erie fisheries management, and gained skills in electro-fishing and aquatic field sampling techniques. Almost 75% (21 of 28) of post-program survey respondents strongly agreed that they plan to share the

information learned at the workshop with others. Sixty-nine percent (18 of 26) agreed or strongly agreed that they will conduct a service project as a result of the workshop.

“I have written a number of stories on Lake Erie issues and information I learned in the GLFLI workshop was essential background. It provided me with a broad scientific framework for my reporting on fisheries issues as well as useful fisheries contacts,” explained a Cleveland PBS radio reporter. Another participant published an article in the local news media concerning the Lake Erie GLFLI training. A third participant has shared his GLFLI information with almost 500 others via the classes he teaches at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. One participant started a sport fishing club that now has over 110 members.



Several participants have shared information they learned at the GLFLI workshops with local sport angling clubs and the Ohio Fish Producers Association. “It (GLFLI) helped me to communicate to others by having real information and data ... It also helped me learn to talk to people...” Ten of 14 (71%) respondents to a post-project survey in the fall of 2004 reported using the GLFLI information and doing an information sharing project.

Led by Ohio Sea Grant, the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network programs also surveyed the Great Lakes charter fishing industry during October 2002 to April 2003 using a modified Dillman mail survey technique. A total of eight technical summaries, one for each Great Lakes Sea Grant program and a Great Lakes-wide summary, were developed as GLFLI curriculum supplements. In 2002, an estimated 1,951 Great Lakes charter captains represented a decline of over 23% from the estimated 2,547 captains in 1994. A total of 868 captains returned surveys with usable data for a response rate of almost 50%. This survey is directly comparable to the 1994 Great Lakes charter captain survey and earlier charter captains surveys conducted in the 1980s. The survey results were published in the March 2005 issue of Fisheries. In 2004, the Great Lakes Commission incorporated the survey data into its' Great Lakes boating study. A poster on the Ohio GLFLI was presented at the National Association of County Agricultural Agents Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference July 17-21, 2005 in Buffalo, NY.



**Great Lakes Sea Grant
Fisheries Leadership Institute**

A final report on the GLFLI pilot program may be found at:
<http://www.greatlakesseagrant.org/leadership.html>

All photos courtesy of Scott Carpenter GLFLI participant.

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